

*La era colonial.* By BENJAMÍN VICUÑA MACKENNA. Prologue by ALFONSO CALDERÓN. Santiago, 1974. Editorial Nascimento. Pp. 167. Paper.

This short work is the final chapter of the two-volume *Historia crítica y social de la ciudad de Santiago, 1541-1868*, first published in 1869 and reprinted in 1924-1926. A professional journalist, diplomat, liberal politician, intendant of Santiago, and presidential aspirant, Benjamín Vicuña Mackenna was also perhaps the most widely read historian in nineteenth-century Chile.

*La era colonial* presents brief sketches taken from the social history of creole families in Santiago, with particular emphasis on eighteenth-century life. Domestic subjects such as infant health care, children's games, marriage contracts, dining habits, and summer vacations are among the numerous topics related in the sixty-one subdivisions. A wealth of related details, curious anecdotes, extracts from official documents and family wills, foreign travelers' accounts, and even business inventories are blended skillfully together, making this volume a pleasure to read. Despite this virtue, a lack of balanced judgement also characterizes the work. A romantic liberal, the author manages both to idolize Chile's past, calling colonial Santiago "the paradise of the New World" (p. 167), and to condemn conservative Spanish rule for creating a prejudiced, lazy, and cruel society during "those wretched times" (p. 63).

*La era colonial* is a useful volume because it makes available again an interesting excerpt from one of Vicuña Mackenna's most popular and representative histories, a work otherwise long out of print. A short prologue about the author introduces this new edition, but unfortunately Vicuña Mackenna's original preface clearly stating his purpose and revealing his methodology is omitted.

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*Amerikanuak: Basques in the New World.* By WILLIAM A. DOUGLAS and JON BILBAO. Reno, 1975. University of Nevada Press. Illustrations. Tables. Maps. Appendices. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xiv, 519. Cloth. \$16.00.

*Amerikanuak: Basques in the New World*, might just as easily have been titled, "everything anyone would ever want to know about the Basques but never thought to ask." The research for the book was vast, the details are voluminous. I can imagine no one else in the foreseeable future again embarking upon such a massive study of Basques in the New World. Authors Douglas (an anthropologist) and Bilbao (a historian) have produced a work which should remain definitive for several generations.

The book is divided into eight chapters. Two trace the history of the European Basques back to the third century and narrate their role as conquistadors and colonizers of the New World. One focuses on their experiences in South America; a fourth on their participation in the development of Spanish California. Three long chapters cover their years in the American West and a conclusion compares the Basques of Latin America with those in the United States. If there is a structural flaw to the book it is that although many more Basques emigrated to, and achieved esteem in, Latin America than to the United States, insufficient

attention is paid to the Latin American experience. On the other hand there is an abundance of detail concerning their lives in the American West. Whereas Basques and their descendents achieved prominence in Latin America, it is probably safe to say that most people in the United States have never heard of them. Their influence in the American power structure is non-existent.

It is interesting to compare the Basque experience in different countries of the New World. Throughout most of Latin America many Basques enjoyed high status, at one time or another, as merchants, administrators, missionaries, mariners and miners. Important Basque communities exist in Chile, Brazil, Peru, Mexico, Argentina, and Uruguay. In the United States, on the other hand, the Basques have always constituted a tiny minority in the most sparsely developed region of the American West. As sheepmen in Argentina they played a vital role in the nineteenth-century economy; as sheepmen in the United States they have been all but overlooked. In both North and South America second and third generations of Basques are rapidly assimilating into the dominant community. But in Latin America clusters of Basques still retain strong ethnic communities; in the United States they hardly seem to be a viable ethnic community.

*Amerikanuak* is definitely not a page-turner, and I doubt whether anyone will read it in one sitting. On the other hand it will probably be the first book one turns to for any specific information needed on the Basques in the New World. Its bibliography and documentation are so full that it will be an indispensable source for future researchers on the Basques.

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*The CIA File*. Edited by ROBERT L. BOROSAGE and JOHN MARKS. New York, 1975. Grossman Publishers. Tables. Notes. Pp. xv, 236. Cloth. \$8.95.

This collection of essays is an outgrowth of a conference held in Washington, D.C. in September 1974. Many of the authors are among the CIA's better known critics and have previously published their own exposés of the agency. Although the editors promise to provide the reader an overall structural and bureaucratic analysis of how the CIA fits into the dynamics of American foreign policy, most of what actually appears is in the nature of particular incidents.

Reading the essays becomes an experience of leafing through a catalog of horrors: CIA-sponsored coups, assassinations, the building up of client regimes in Africa and Brazil, and the toppling of Allende in Chile. In almost all of the CIA interventions, the authors tell us, the agency is opposing political and economic nationalism, interpreted as a cover for Soviet or Chinese subversion. A sub-theme is the danger to American economic power presented by third-world nations determined to escape neo-colonial status.

Lest we suppose that CIA operations are confined to a few cloaks and daggers, a report on Laos demonstrates the vast scale of covert intervention in that unhappy nation's civil war. An alternative scenario was played in the "Destabilization of Chile." There, with enough money and contacts within key sectors of Chilean society (the army, police, press and unions) the CIA could virtually insure the toppling of Allende's government without direct intervention.

But how does all of this fit into understanding the sources of CIA power